

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 029446

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

UNCLAS STATE 029446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FW

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US FLAG AIRLINE SERVICE TO MARTINIQUE/
GUADALOUPE

REF: MARTINIQUE 41

1. AMERICAN AIRLINES ON OCTOBER 8, 1975 APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO PROVIDE SERVICES BETWEEN NEW YORK AND MARTINIQUE/GUADALOUPE. SOME FLIGHTS WERE TO BE NONSTOP, AND OTHERS VIA VIRGIN ISLANDS AND HAITI. APPLICATION FILED BEFORE CAB WAS FOR EXEMPTION AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE THE REQUESTED SERVICES. THIS APPROACH WOULD BY-PASS THE NORMAL COURSE OF CAB PERMIT PROCEEDINGS WHICH INCLUDE SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CROSS EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES. AMERICAN JUSTIFIED ITS APPLICATION BY POINTING OUT THAT NO US AIRLINE IS PROVIDING SINGLE PLANE SERVICE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND MARTINIQUE/GUADALOUPE, AND BY CLAIMING THAT EASTERN AIRLINES HAS NO STAKE IN THIS MARKET.

2. EASTERN AIRLINES OBJECTED TO THE APPLICATION ON BASIS
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PAGE 02 STATE 029446

THAT AMERICAN'S PREVIOUS APPLICATION HAD BEEN REJECTED

BY CAB, AND THAT NOTHING HAD CHANGED TO WARRANT A COMPLETE REVERSAL BY THE CAB. EASTERN ALSO CHARGED THAT EXEMPTION

PROCEDURES ARE INAPPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION OF AMERICAN'S ENTRANCE TO NEW CARIBBEAN POINTS.

3. THE CAB ON DECEMBER 18, 1975 DECIDED TO DENY AMERICAN'S APPLICATION, STATING THAT THE EXEMPTION PROCEDURE WAS NOT SUITABLE FOR THE CONTEMPLATED EXPANSION OF AMERICA'S OPERATIONS. IN THIS REGARD, THE BOARD NOTED THAT ONLY ABOUT 7500 PASSENGERS TRAVELLED TO AND FROM THE FRENCH ISLANDS DURING THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 20, 1974. IN ADDITION TO EASTERN'S SERVICE VIA SAN JUAN, FOREIGN FLAG AIRLINES OFFER A NUMBER OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN NEW YORK AND THE FRENCH ISLANDS.

4. ALTHOUGH AMERICAN HAS EXPRESSED A CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE ROUTE, THE AIRLINE HAS NOT RESUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO HAVE THE ROUTE INCLUDED IN ITS PERMIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL CAB PROCEEDINGS. PAN AMERICAN'S AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND MARTINIQUE/GUADALOUPE SERVICES EXPIRES IN DECEMBER 1976. AT THIS TIME, DEPARTMENT IS NOT AWARE OF ANY PAN AM PLANS CONCERNING FUTURE OPERATIONS IN THIS MARKET. SISCO

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